

CCM 2013 Testimony

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PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

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The Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) is Connecticut's statewide association of towns and cities and the voice of local government - your partners in governing Connecticut. Our members represent over 92% of Connecticut's population. We appreciate the opportunity to testify on bills of interest to towns and cities.

CCM supports House Bill 6518 "*An Act Concerning Emergency Medical Services*"

HB 6518 would allow a municipality the authority to select the primary service area responder for ambulance transportation. Furthermore the bill would allow a municipality the right to review and terminate a contract, and remove a responder based on an allegation that an emergency exists and that the safety, health and welfare of their citizens are jeopardized by the responder's performance as determined by the local emergency medical services plan, associated agreements or contracts established by the municipality.

This bill would change the existing practice through which the Department of Public Health designates the ambulance service provider for each primary service area. This current practice limits municipal input into who is selected to provide that service, at what cost. Current law restricts the ability of towns and cities in terminating the service of designated ambulance provider.

As municipalities are continually being asked to do more with less, HB 6518 would grant local control in selecting an ambulance service provider. Allowing for competitive bidding process will give cities and towns the ability to evaluate and select the provider that best fills the needs of their town.

HB 6518 would give municipalities the ability to control the selection of a provider for an essential municipal service. Cities and towns have and will continue to put the needs of their citizens first and have done so through the services they currently provide, fire, police and schools. It seems odd that we would not entrust them with the authority to choose who provides their ambulance service or the right to cancel the contract of a company that fails to provide this essential service.

While CCM urges the committee to support and favorably report HB 6518.

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If you have any questions, please contact M. Randall Collins Jr., Senior Legislative Associate for CCM
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